

Geographic Review Panel 4 – San Joaquin River

Proposal number: 2001-K220 **Short Proposal Title:** Reintroduction of Salmonids in Headwaters

1. Applicability to CALFED ERP Goals and Implementation Plan and CVPIA priorities, and relevance to ERP and CVPIA priorities for your region. Addresses at-risk species spring-run and steelhead. Not particularly relevant in the San Joaquin River Basin where the spring-run no longer exists. Introduction of salmon in the Upper San Joaquin River is not an ERP or CVPIA goal. If the study were successful and its conclusions ultimately led to the successful re-introduction of salmon or steelhead above rim dams in the San Joaquin system, it could increase the range of these species in the San Joaquin region.

2. Linkages/coordination with previously funded projects or other restoration activities in your region. Few linkages to other projects. However, could provide information on areas not being considered in other programs (e.g. above rim dams).

3. Feasibility, especially the project's ability to move forward in a timely and successful manner. The study is feasible because only an initial investigation is being conducted on 11 dams. Three dams will be selected for in depth analysis as a result of those investigations. However, the reality of implementing significant changes to those dams is minimal.

Concur with Staff Review: " what are the social and economic costs (of implementation)?"

4. Qualifications of the applicants and others involved in implementing the proposed project. Applicants are qualified and experienced.

5. Local involvement (including environmental compliance). This is a research project rather than an implementation project (page 20). However, the applicant is proposing to contact a variety of interest groups to try and determine how their concerns can be accommodated (page 35). It is not clear if this out reach is part of the initial investigation of 11 dams or only for the three that are ultimately selected for in depth analysis. This project does not appear to have coordinated with ongoing SJR Restoration and Water Supply projects.

Concur with Staff Review: "Participant is overly optimistic as to the level of effort required for public outreach. ...without significant efforts to.... involve stakeholders, this may generate significant opposition and ultimately be counterproductive."..."public outreach is inadequate because of volatility of subject.

6. Cost. The costs are in line with the work proposed.

7. Cost sharing. There are no cost share partners included in the initial proposal. The applicant intends to apply for funding from Four Pumps and NFWF (pg. 34)

8. Additional comments. Panel concerned that the physical, technical and sociological barriers to this effort resulting in benefits to anadromous fish are insurmountable at this time. This would require the outmigrating smolts to travel through HUGE reservoirs. Based on current thinking regarding predation in captured gravel pits, this will be a disaster for the smolts. A reservoir behind a dam has all of the characteristics of gravel pits on a much larger scale, warm, slow moving water and deep areas for predators such as large mouth bass to thrive in.

Regional Ranking

Panel Ranking: Medium Low

Provide a brief explanation of your ranking: Panel concerned that the physical, technical and sociological barriers to this effort resulting in benefits to anadromous fish are insurmountable at this time.